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be mounted in Canada balsam, when it shows all its beauties in a remarkable manner, and, at the same time, shows its effects on polarized light. I would say, that the potassa cleans the shell and operculum beautifully. — A. M. EDWARDS, *New York.*

THE MOVEMENTS OF THE DIATOMACEÆ. — The movements of the Diatomaceæ still continue to puzzle microscopists, and various explanations of this phenomenon have been advanced. Professor Schultze has carefully studied a number of species, *Pleurosigma angulatum*, *Pleurosigma fasciola*, *Nitschia sigmoides*, *Surirella bifrons*, and others, making various experiments and observations upon them. He is led from these researches to conclude that a glutinous organic substance, which is concerned in rapid movement, is spread over the external surface of the Diatomaceæ. It is by this protoplasmic sheath that the *Bacillariæ* become adherent to one another. Professor Schultze does not consider that this view affects the question of the animal or plant nature of diatoms. He considers that they must be left with some other unicellular beings, as of "uncertain kingdom," until we know more of what constitutes the boundary, if there be any, between plants and animals. — *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science.*

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. T. M., Grand Isle, Vt. — The land snails sent for identification are as follows: The "largest, No. 1," is *Helix concava* Say. The "horn-colored, No. 2," is *Helix chersina* Say. The "small reflected lipped, No. 3," is *Helix minuta* Say. The "light-colored conical-shaped, No. 4," is *Pupa pentodon* Say. The late fall months will be found a very favorable time for collecting, as the leaves, having fallen, no longer obstruct the light, and the snails can be easily detected by turning up the damp layers in hard-wood growths.

D. S. C., Rockport, Ill. — "Essay on Classification," by Professor Agassiz, was published separately in London; Longmans & Co., 1859. You can undoubtedly obtain it by ordering of any prominent bookseller in New York. The cheapest form of cabinet for geological specimens is an upright case of shelves, like a bookcase. The shelves to be inclined, or to have separate steps on each shelf. For a conchological case, make a set of shallow drawers, 18x24 inches, and from two to five inches deep. For exhibition, nothing is better than a horizontal show-case, though this takes up a great deal of room.

E. L. M., New York. — Besides the works on Entomology already mentioned in the NATURALIST, you need the works on American

Entomology, published by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. Send for its list of works for January, 1866, with the prices attached. We intend hereafter to publish in the NATURALIST an extended list of the most important works on Insects.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—The Sixteenth Annual Meeting was held at Burlington, Vermont, commencing on Wednesday, August 21, and continuing until Monday night, August 26, 1867.

In September, 1847, the "Association of American Geologists and Naturalists" resolved itself into the "American Association for the Advancement of Science." The new organization held its first meeting at Philadelphia, September, 1848. The objects of this Association are the holding of annual and migratory meetings, to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of the country, and to give impulse, system, facility, and wider usefulness to the labors of scientific men.

About seventy-five members from various parts of the country were in attendance during the five days' session at Burlington, and many interesting papers were read and freely discussed during the meeting.

The Association held its meetings in the rooms of the City Hall, the Court House, and the vestry of the Third Congregational Church, under the auspices of the Local Committee. Each morning there was a general meeting for business, and then the members adjourned to SECTION A,—*Mathematics and Physics;* or to SECTION B,—*Natural History and Geology*, as their tastes inclined.

On Friday evening, the President, Professor J. S. NEWBERRY, of Columbia College, New York, gave an address on *Modern Scientific Investigation—its Methods and Tendencies.* His address applied to the whole range of the sciences. It was comprehensive, profound, and ably written, and gave great satisfaction to the members present. This address will be published in full in the next number of the NATURALIST.

On Saturday, after a short session in the morning, the Association and their friends accepted the invitation of the Champlain Transportation Company, and made an excursion to the Au Sable Chasm, in Keeseville, New York, a singular and very beautiful chasm in the Potsdam rocks, through which the Au Sable River makes its way to the Lake.